



#### IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:  
variable display ~~means~~devices for variably displaying various symbols;  
a lottery ~~means~~device for executing a lottery of a winning combination;  
a stop control ~~means~~device for performing stop control of variable display;  
a stop control selection ~~means~~device for selecting a kind of control of the  
stop control ~~means~~device in reference to a result of the lottery;  
a shielding ~~means~~device for shielding, the shielding ~~means~~device being  
disposed in front of the variable display ~~means~~devices; and  
a shielding control ~~means~~device for performing, in accordance with  
selection by the stop control selection ~~means~~device, switch control of the  
shielding ~~means~~device between a state enabling a player to visually recognize  
some of the symbols and another state disabling the player from visually  
recognizing some of the symbols;  
wherein the shielding control ~~means~~device performing, in accordance with  
a kind of stopping operation by the player, switch control between a first shielding  
state which is executed when the stopping operation matches the kind of the stop  
control ~~means~~device, and a second shielding state which is executed when the  
stopping operation does not match the kind of the stop control ~~means~~device.

14. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to Claim 13,  
further comprising an effect display, which displays an effect image and is  
disposed in front of the variable display ~~means~~devices wherein the effect image  
is displayed on the effect display after the second shielding state is executed.

15. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to Claim 13,  
wherein the shielding ~~means~~device comprises an electronic shutter.

16. (New) A gaming machine comprising:
- variable display devices for variably displaying various symbols;
  - a lottery device for executing a lottery of a winning combination;
  - a stop control device for performing stop control of variable display;
  - a stop control selection device for selecting a kind of control of the stop control device in reference to a result of the lottery;
  - a shielding device for shielding, the shielding device being disposed in front of the variable display devices; and
  - a shielding control device for performing, in accordance with selection by the stop control selection device, switch control of the shielding device between a state enabling a player to visually recognize some of the symbols and another state disabling the player from visually recognizing some of the symbols.